

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 SAM-01 /070 W

----- 001314

R 160903Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 127

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG UR

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S MOSCOW TRIP POSTPONED BY SOVIETS

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR LAVROV TOLD ME NOV 15 THAT TWO DAYS AGO HE HAD DIFFICULT TASK OF ASKING PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO POSTPONE HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO MOSCOW. (I'LL BET IT WAS DIFFICULT SINCE GOZ HAD LAUNCHED ELABORATE PRESS CAMPAIGN EXPLAINING VISIT AS LATEST PROOF OF MOBUTU'S WORLD STATURE). LAVROV SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED THAT SOVIET LEADERS WANTED TO RECEIVE MOBUTU WITH ALL THE WARMTH APPROPRIATE TO RELATIONS BETWEEN GOOD FRIENDS BUT THAT UNFORTUNATELY KEY PERSONALITIES WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE ON DATE WHICH HAD BEEN FIXED LONG AGO. HE MENTIONED BREZHNEV MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND RECENTLY SCHEDULED DEC 5 TRIP TO PARIS TO SEE GISCARD. HE SAID ZAIROIS REACTION (APPARENTLY CONVEYED BY FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA) HAD BEEN DISTRESSED,
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PARTICULARLY SINCE MOBUTU HAD OTHER STOPS (PRESUMABLY

AT LEAST POLAND AND HUNGARY) ON SCHEDULE WHICH MIGHT NOW HAVE TO BE RESCHEDULED. (PERSONALLY I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT MOBUTU WOULD GO TO WHAT HE HAS CALLED "SATELLITES" IF HE CAN'T GO TO MOSCOW.) LAVROV SAID AGREEMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON NEW DATE FOR VISIT BUT THAT HE AND SOVIETS HOPED THIS CAN BE FIXED SOON.

2. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE MOSCOW'S ASSESSMENT OF VALIDITY EXCUSE GIVEN, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SOVIETS MAY BE PRESSURING MOBUTU OR INDICATING DISPLEASURE OVER MOBUTU'S RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO TYPE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS THAT WE KNOW HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF SENIOR STAFF LEVEL CONSULTATIONS.
HINTON

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